

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 ADDIS 03212 01 OF 02 220809Z  
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05  
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02  
SS-15 ICA-11 EB-08 TRSE-00 OMB-01 AGRE-00 /088 W  
-----028635 220841Z /10

R 211503Z JUL 78  
FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA  
TO SECSTATE 9123  
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM  
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO  
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 ADDIS ABABA 3212

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PEPR, ET, US  
SUBJ: EXCHANGE OF VIEWS BETWEEN PMAC CHAIRMAN AND AMBASSADOR  
AT CREDENTIALS CEREMONY

SUMMARY. EXTEMPORANEOUS AND CORDIAL DISCUSSION BETWEEN AMBASSADOR AND CHAIRMAN MENGISTU FOLLOWED CREDENTIALS PRESENTATION CEREMONY JULY 21. AMBASSADOR SAID USG WAS WILLING TO TRY TO FIND AREAS OF COMMON CONCERN TO DEVELOP MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE AID PROGRAMS, AND SAID THAT WHILE RECOGNIZING THAT ERITREA WAS AN INTERNAL ETHIOPIAN PROBLEM, WE HOPED THAT MORE BLOODSHED COULD BE AVOIDED. HE ALSO TOLD CHAIRMAN OF HIS EFFORTS TO RESOLVE ISSUE OF COMPENSATION FOR NATIONALIZED AMERICAN PROPERTY. CHAIRMAN SAID THAT PRESENT MILITARY ADVISORS TO PMGSE WOULD NOT AFFECT ETHIOPIA'S SOVEREIGNTY OR INDEPENDENCE, SAID HE LOOKED FORWARD TO PRIVATE, FRANK DISCUSSIONS WITH AMBASSADOR, OFFERED FULL COOPERATION TO MAKE AMBASSADOR'S MISSION A SUCCESS AND ASKED AMBASSADOR TO SEND PRESIDENT CARTER HIS BEST WISHES. END SUMMARY.

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PAGE 02 ADDIS 03212 01 OF 02 220809Z

1. FOLLOWING IS SUMMARY OF SUBSTANTIVE EXTEMPORANEOUS REMARKS EXCHANGED BETWEEN CHAIRMAN OF PMAC AND OF PMGSE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS LT COL MENGISTU HAILE-MARIAM AND AMBASSADOR AT JULY 21 PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS CEREMONY. CHAIRMAN SPOKE IN AMHARIC, WHICH WAS TRANSLATED (BADLY) INTO ENGLISH, BUT DID NOT REQUIRE TRANSLATION INTO AMHARIC

OF AMBASSADOR'S REMARKS. SENIOR PMGSE OFFICIALS PRESENT INCLUDED PMAC STANDING COMMITTEE OFFICIAL RESPONSIBLE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, LT COL BERHANU BAYEH, ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER MAJOR DAWIT WOLDE-CHIORGIS, TAYE WORKU, PLANNING COMMISSIONER, AND FOREIGN MINISTRY'S HEAD OF AMERICAS DIVISION, BERHANE DERESSA.

2. AMBASSADOR SAID HIS MAIN OBJECTIVE WOULD BE TO ATTEMPT TO IMPROVE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. HE TOLD CHAIRMAN THAT THE UNITED STATES, AS A FORMER COLONY WHICH WAS BORN OUT OF A REVOLUTION, COULD UNDERSTAND ETHIOPIA AND ACCEPTED A COUNTRY'S RIGHT TO CARRY OUT ITS OWN REVOLUTION. OUR DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE ASSERTED JUST SUCH A RIGHT. HE NOTED THAT SOME OF THE ETHIOPIAN REVOLUTION'S GOALS AND PROGRAMS, (NOTABLY IN AGRICULTURE AND SPECIFICALLY IN LAND REFORM) WERE PROGRAMS WHICH THE USG HAD UNSUCCESSFULLY URGED THE EMPEROR TO UNDERTAKE. HE SAID THAT THERE WERE AREAS OF COMMON INTEREST BETWEEN THE USG AND THE PMGSE ON WHICH WE COULD COOPERATE FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE MOST UNDERPRIVILEGED GROUP IN ETHIOPIA, THE PEASANTS, WHICH MAKE UP OVER 80 PERCENT OF THE POPULATION. THE CHAIRMAN SAID THAT HE AGREED WITH THE AMBASSADOR AND STRESSED ETHIOPIA'S RIGHT TO ITS OWN REVOLUTION WITHOUT INTERFERENCE FROM THE OUTSIDE.

3. THE CHAIRMAN RAISED THE REBELLION IN ERITREA ("PRESENT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 ADDIS 03212 01 OF 02 220809Z

TROUBLES IN NORTHERN ETHIOPIA") AND SAID SEVERAL TIMES IN SEVERAL WAYS THAT THIS WAS AN INTERNAL ISSUE FOR THE ETHIOPIANS TO RESOLVE THEMSELVES WITHOUT OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE. THE AMBASSADOR TOLD HIM THAT THE USG HAD ALWAYS CONSIDERED ERITREA TO BE AN INTEGRAL PART OF ETHIOPIA. HE SAID THAT AS A PEACE-LOVING COUNTRY THE US HOPED THAT THE ISSUE COULD BE SETTLED BY NEGOTIATIONS IN ORDER TO AVOID MORE BLOODSHED. THE CHAIRMAN REPLIED THAT ETHIOPIA HAD A LONG TRADITION OF SEEKING PEACE WITH ITS NEIGHBORS AND THAT WITH REGARD TO THE INTERNAL PROBLEMS OF NORTHERN ETHIOPIA WOULD ALSO LIKE TO AVOID BLOODSHED. (COMMENT: SOMALIA AND THE OGADEN DID NOT COME UP EVEN INDIRECTLY. END COMMENT).

4. THE CHAIRMAN REFERRED TO ETHIOPIA'S LONG HISTORY AND ITS CONTINUING EFFORTS TO PROTECT ITSELF FROM EXTERNAL AGGRESSION. WHILE NOTING ETHIOPIA'S SUCCESS IN THIS REGARD, HE SAID THAT ETHIOPIA HAD NOT BEEN AS SUCCESSFUL IN PROTECTING THE INTERESTS OF ALL ITS CITIZENS. HE SAID THAT THE ETHIOPIAN REVOLUTION WAS NOW ATTEMPTING TO DO SO. HE SAID THAT, AS WAS THE CASE WHEN ETHIOPIA DEPENDED ON THE US FOR ITS WEAPONS, NOW ETHIOPIA NEEDED EXPERTS AND ADVISERS FOR THE WEAPONS IT RECEIVES FROM ITS PRESENT

SUPPLIERS. IN THE CONTEXT OF THE DISCUSSION ON ETHIOPIAN INDEPENDENCE AND ETHIOPIAN VIGILANCE OVER ITS SOVEREIGNTY HE IMPLIED THERE WAS NO DANGER FROM THE PRESENT ADVISORS. THE AMBASSADOR REPLIED THAT THE USG RELIED ON ETHIOPIA'S LONG HISTORY OF JEALOUSLY MAINTAINING ITS INDEPENDENCE AS AN ASSURANCE THAT IT WOULD MAINTAIN IT IN THE FUTURE.

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PAGE 01 ADDIS 03212 02 OF 02 220833Z  
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H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02  
SS-15 ICA-11 EB-08 TRSE-00 OMB-01 AGRE-00 IO-13  
/101 W  
-----028810 220840Z /10

R 211503Z JUL 78  
FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9124  
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 2 OF 2 ADDIS ABABA 3212

5. THE CHAIRMAN REFERRED TO THE OCCASION IN WHICH ETHIOPIA AND THE US HAD FOUGHT TOGETHER UNDER THE UN FLAG AND EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT ETHIOPIA AND THE US COULD WORK AGAIN TOGETHER IN THE FUTURE. HE ADKED FOR USG UNDERSTANDING AND SUPPORT. THE AMBASSADOR REFERRED TO THE COMMON GOALS OF THE US AND ETHIOPIA IN THE KOREAN CONFLICT AND THE CLOSE COOPERATION WHICH EXISTED THEN AND FOR A LONG TIME BETWEEN OUR COUNTRIES (COMMENT: THE INTERPRETER TOLD THE DCM AND POLCOUNS AFTER THE CEREMONY THAT THE CHAIRMAN HAD NOT SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED KOREA. WE ARE UNABLE TO THINK OF ANY OTHER OCCASION IN WHICH THE US AND ETHIOPIA WERE COMRADES IN ARMS UNDER THE UN FLAG. US DID NOT FIGHT IN CONGO UNDER UN FLAG. END COMMENT).

6. THE CHAIRMAN NOTED THAT THERE HAD BEEN RECENT OCCASIONS WHEN US-ETHIOPIAN RELATIONS HAD NOT BEEN "WARM", AND SAID HE HOPED FOR BETTER RELATIONS IN THE FUTURE. THE AMBASSADOR REPLIED THAT HE AND HIS ENTIRE STAFF WOULD DEVOTE THEM-

SELVES TO THAT END. HE NOTED THAT HE HOPED TO BUILD ON  
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PAGE 02 ADDIS 03212 02 OF 02 220833Z

THE STEPS ACHIEVED BY THE AARON AND TSONGAS/BONKER MISSIONS.  
THE CHAIRMAN SAID ON THREE OCCASIONS THAT HE HOPED TO HAVE  
PRIVATE AND FRANK DISCUSSIONS WITH THE AMBASSADOR FROM TIME  
TO TIME. THE AMBASSADOR SAID THAT HE ALSO HOPED AND LOOKED  
FORWARD TO HAVING AN OPEN DIALOGUE WITH NOT ONLY THE CHAIR-  
MAN, BUT WITH THE CHAIRMAN'S ASSOCIATES AND GOVERNMENT  
MINISTERS.

7. THE CHAIRMAN SAID THAT HE HOPED THE AMBASSADOR WOULD  
HAVE A PERSONALLY PLEASANT STAY IN ETHIOPIA DURING HIS  
ASSIGNMENT AND THAT THE AMBASSADOR COULD COUNT ON HIS ASSIS-  
TNACE TO MAKE HIS MISSION TO ETHIOPIA A SUCCESS.

8. THE CHAIRMAN CONCLUDED THE DISCUSSION BY ASKING THE  
AMBASSADOR TO TRANSMIT HIS BEST PERSONAL WISHES TO PRESI-  
DENT CARTER, WHICH THE AMBASSADOR ASSURED HIM HE WOULD DO.

9. COMMENT: THE TONE OF THE CONVERSATION WAS TYPICALLY  
ETHIOPIAN: COURTEIOUS, INDIRECT, REplete WITH ALLUSIONS,  
CIRCUMLOCUTIONS AND GENERALITIES. THE CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS  
WERE ALMOST WHISPERED, WHILE HIS EYES FOCUSSED SOMEHWERE  
IN THE MIDDLE DISTANCE. WITHIN THIS ETHIOPIAN FRAMEWORK,  
MY TWO SENIOR OFFICERS, WHO ACCOMPANIED ME NOTICED A WARMTH  
AND INTEREST O THE ETHIOPIANS' PART WHICH HAS NOT CHARAC-  
TERIZED RECENT CONVERSATIONS. WE WILL SEE. END COMMENT.  
CHAPIN

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## Message Attributes

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EXTEMPORANEOUS AND CORDIAL DISCUSSION BET  
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**To:** STATE  
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